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Ex-Guerrilla Fighter Named To U.S. Far Eastern Post

By PHILIP POTTER
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, March 13—Roger Hilsman, a 43-year-old former guerrilla fighter in Merrill's Marauders during the Burma campaign, has been named Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

He succeeds the 71-year-old W. Averell Harriman, who is moving up to Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

President Kennedy announced today that George C. McGhee, who had held the Under Secretary's post, will be nominated Ambassador to West Germany, as had been forecast.

Guerrilla Warfare Key

Hilsman's promotion from the directorship of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research reflects the fact that guerrilla operations are figuring prominently in American affairs in the Far East, where 10,000 GI's now are supporting South Vietnam against the Viet Cong jungle fighters.

The prospect of guerrilla warfare breaking out on Borneo cannot be precluded. Both Indonesia and the Philippines are angry over British plans to form the Malaysian Federation in August, merging the North Borneo and Sarawak colonies and Brunei, a British protectorate, with now-independent Malaya and Singapore.

Indonesia is threatening to support any indigenous rebellion that may break out in North Borneo. It is suspected of having given encouragement to last year's abortive rebellion in Brunei. The 250,000-man Indonesian army is skilled in guerrilla action.

Hilsman, who has worked closely with Harriman, is regarded in the State Department as an expert on counter-insurgency operations.

West Point Graduate

A 1943 graduate of West Point, he was wounded while with Merrill's Marauders in the Burmese jungles during World War II. He later joined the Office of Strategic Services headed by William J. Donovan and commanded a guerrilla unit behind Japanese lines.

At war's end he was in China with an OSS team liberating American prisoners of war at Mukden. Among them was his father, Col. Roger Hilsman, imprisoned by the Japanese while

commanding officer of the Negro Islands in the Philippines.

The new Assistant Secretary had gone to school in Manila as a boy. He now holds a Yale doctorate in international relations.

Hilsman has worked with the Central Intelligence Agency, taught at Princeton and the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, done research for the Library of Congress's legislative reference service and written a number of books. He is nevertheless known as an "activist."

"Hard Action" Urged

He has urged "hard action" by the American military engaged with the South Vietnamese forces seeking to root out the Viet Cong, and he played a key part, as director of the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau, in the White House maneuvering that led to Russia's withdrawal of missiles from Cuba last fall.

A Kremlinologist, Hilsman won President Kennedy's respect for the moves he wrote anticipating Soviet moves and analyzing probable reactions.

Aide In Kashmir Talks

He was sent with Harriman last December on the trip to New Delhi and Rawalpindi to persuade Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India and President Mohammed Ayub Khan of Pakistan to resume talks on their Kashmir dispute.

In 1946, Hilsman, married a Baltimore girl, Eleanor W. Hoyt. They have four children.

Succeeding him as director of intelligence and research for the State Department is his present deputy, Thomas L. Hughes.

Close Ties Key

The White House left to the State Department the timing of Harriman's replacing McGhee, who was lauded by President Kennedy today for having "given valuable service to our country for nearly seventeen years in a wide range of important foreign affairs positions."

Mr. Kennedy said he had asked McGhee to leave his present post for the West German Ambassadorship because of the great importance attached "to the maintenance of close and cooperative relations between the United States and Germany in the frame-

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